The Negro Farmer and Messenger

Published Bi-Weekly in the Interest of the Home, Farm and Garden; especially devoted to the Interest of Negro Land Owners and Tenant Farmers

and Those Who Employ Negro Labor. The Only Negro Farm Newspaper in the World to be Circulated Among 2,000,000 Black Farmers.

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DEC 13 1916

The Calf Show at Tuskegee

By R. C. Atkins

In Charge of Dairy Herd, Tuskegeee Institute, Alabama

No branch of agricultural industry has made greater development in the last decade than dairying. Each year more than a billion dollars of wealth are produced from the dairy industry. This industry ranks second in valuation to corn and meat production only.

The cow, which is the prime factor in the development and growth of the dairy industry, has changed from the primitive animal producing scarcely enough milk for her calf, to the modern cow which gives milk almost incessantly. Since the discovery of the Babcock test the average butter-fat production has increased from 125 to 175 lbs. per year. While this average is far too low, it is headed in the proper direction. There are numerous herds throughout the country that average 300 lbs. per year. Many individual animals far exceed this amount, and 600 to 700 lbs. is not uncommon.

This notable change has not just happened, but it has been wrought out by breeders who have spent a lifetime in the business. These men have at all times been governed by the scientific principles of breeding and selection; they have practiced judicious and liberal feeding; and have always given due consideration to the care and management of their herds.

In keeping with the spirit of modern dairying, and while industrious and thrifty breeders were fitting their animals to exhibit at the numerous fairs and cattle expositions, the Dairy Husbandry Division of Tuskegee Institute began to fit a group of fifteen heifers, four cows, and four bulls to exhibit at the Calf Show, October 19, 1916.

The heifers and two of the cows were the offsprings of "Sam Prince," the Institute's aged bull. This group of heifers ranged in age from eight days to twenty-four months, and simply demonstrated what can be done under average farm conditions. These animals have been on the field of battle, if you please, and have won the victory.

They won, not because they had the choicest of feed, — in fact, until fifteen days before they were exhibited, the majority of these animals had not received a pound of grain since calfhood.

Their care was no better than the average farmer could give his cattle. These heifers have spent their life in the open pasture, with only a shed for shelter during the most severe weather.

Their dams were native cows, some of which had one generation of pure blood in their veins; but many possessed no better breeding than a great many cows found in Macon County.

But two things they did have that the average farmer does not give his calf: they had a well-bred father, and each animal had been rigorously selected. The fact that these heifers had a sire possessed of the proper dairy type, whose blood lines trace to an ancestry of great producers, in quality and quantity, and above all that seventeen of his heifers, which are giving milk, are making creditable records, that surpass the performances of their dams, gave these heifers the advantage at the beginning of their life. The influence of this sire will continue to exert itself upon his offspring, and we hope to see the actual results as each heifer comes to the pail.

These heifers are another proof of the statement that "the bull is half the herd." In a herd of ten cows the sire's influence is ten times greater than that of each cow. This fact should be conclusive evidence against the use of the scrub sire. The day for use of the sire of mixed breeding has passed, and anything less than a pure-bred sire, well bred and of good conformation, should not be allowed to head any herd.

Each animal in this exhibit was cared for by one of the young men working in the Dairy Herd Division. Aside from the daily routine, these young men spent many hours grooming, polishing horns and hoofs, combing the switch, and bedding the animal placed in their charge. The feeding was done by the regular feeder of the herd.

When the day arrived for the show every animal was in the "pink of condition." In the training, fitting, and showing of these animals, the students gained a knowledge of showring management that will make them strong contenders for the blue ribbons at their respective State and county fairs.

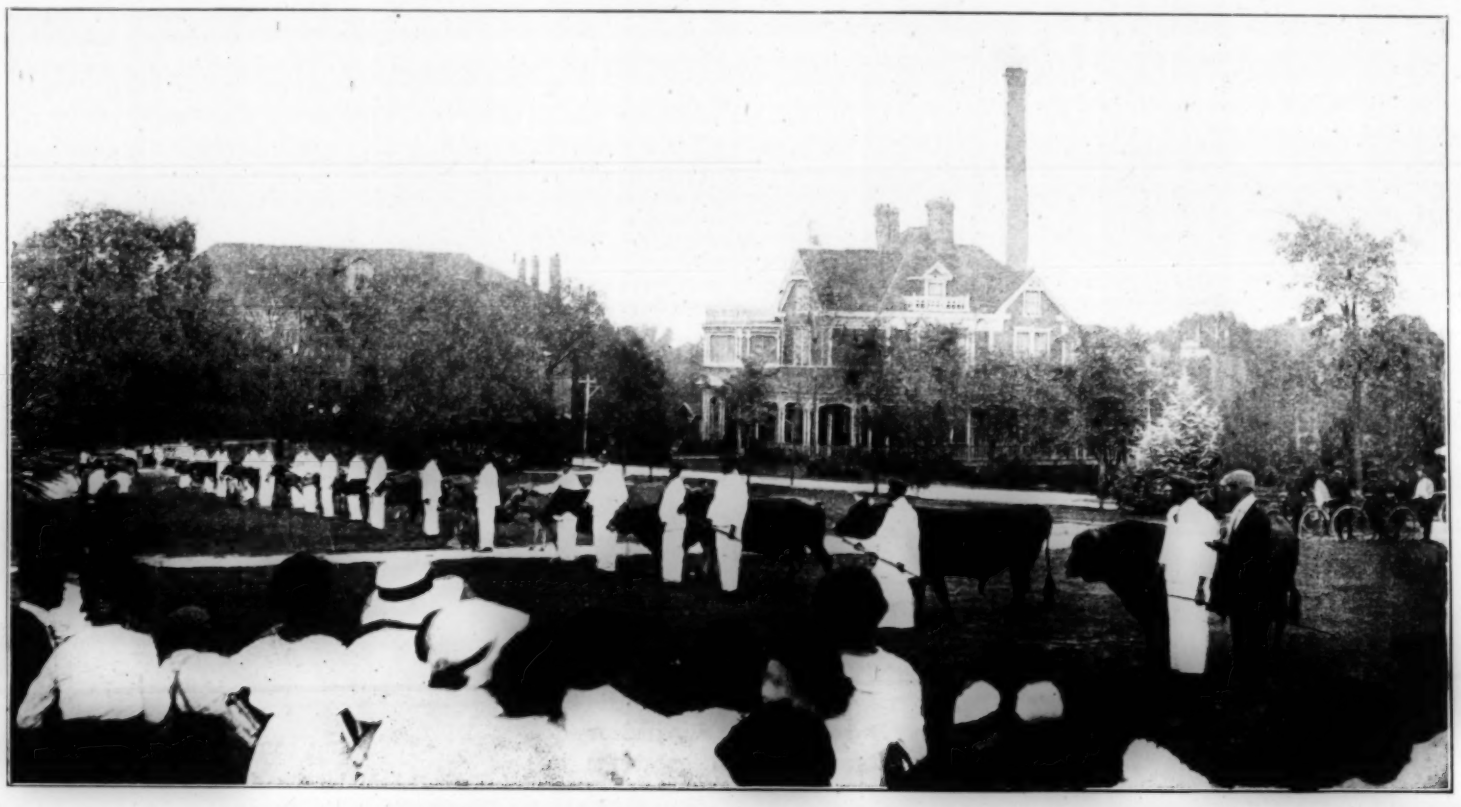
The animals were led to White Hall lawn, where a committee of six ladies, composed of Mrs. R. R. Moton, chairman; Mrs. G. R. Bridgeforth; Mrs. J. B. Ramsey; Mrs. J. H. Palmer; Miss Ruth Logan; and Miss N. J. Coleman awarded the prizes.

The grand champion prize was won by F. P. Jones, a post-graduate student, who exhibited a beautiful, sixteen-month's-old, grade Jersey heifer.

The first prize for the best bull was won by W. E. Lewis, a second-year dairy husbandry student. The first prize for the best cow was won by A. A. Pearson, a Post-graduate student. The first prize for the best heifer was won by Lee McDonald, a first-year dairy husbandry student. Honorable mention was given to Esker Cobb and Harry Young.

A small score card was given each judge showing just how the prizes were to be awarded. Each boy's average was determined by his control of the animal, the appearance of the animal, and the appearance of the exhibitor. (The boys were not held responsible for the conformation of the animal.)

The showing of these animals was proof that a good sire is necessary to make improvement in breeding livestock; that under average farm condition our cattle can be made profitable to the farmers by proper selection, feeding, care, and management, and that this improvement can be made upon scrub or native cows.



THE CALF SHOW AT TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

On Thursday, October 19th, 1916, The second annual show of Tuskegee Institute bred calves was held on the White Hall lawn. The picture above shows the final line-up for the inspection of the Judges.

The students who fitted these animals learned to appreciate more than ever before the value of intelligent breeding, feeding, and care; and all who witnessed the show saw in the dairy cow wonderful possibilities in helping to change Southern agriculture from a soil-robbing, and in most cases an unprofitable business to one of pleasure and profit. If we allow the dairy cow to assist in changing our present system of farming, the fertility of our soil will be increased, larger yields will be produced, a regular and constant source of income will be the farmer's, a better class of labor can be kept on the farm, and the general prosperity of Southern farms be increased.

CARE OF THE HERD BULL

By W. W. Swett,

Missouri College of Agriculture

It is a well known and very true saying that "the sire is half the herd" yet this important "half" seldom receives the attention he deserves.

From birth, the bull should be given the best care and feed in order that he may make the maximum growth and development. He should

receive plenty of skim-milk and grain and be treated as well if not even better than the heifer calves.

At the age of five or six months he must be separated from the other calves. From this time on he must receive regular exercise and must be gently handled. When he is 10 to 12 months old he may be given light service—possibly one cow every three or four weeks. From the age of 12 to 16 months this service may be increased to one cow per week.

A satisfactory feed for a mature bull is alfalfa or clover hay and a grain mixture of corn, with oats or bran. A bull must have plenty of exercise. He does not need to be housed in a warm barn but is kept in the best condition when given a dry but open shed with a paddock attached so that he can go in or out at will.

Every mature bull should have a ring in his nose. There is some difference in opinion in regard to dehorning, but it is always safer to handle a bull without horns.

Following are a few DON'TS which can be followed to advantage in handling a bull:

Don't underfeed him when young or keep him overfat when mature.

Don't use him too heavily before he is mature.

Don't abuse him. You can get better results by firm handling.

Don't tease him or allow children to play with him.

Don't let him get the upper hand at any time.

Don't let him realize his enormous strength.

Don't keep him confined. Give him plenty of exercise.

Don't trust ANY bull at ANY time. It is the "gentle" bull that does the damage.

AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN THROUGH CHAMBERS COUNTY

Prof. W. H. Rakestraw, the Negro Farmers' Conference Agent of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, traveled with Miss Hattie L. Finley, Jeanes Fund Supervisor of Chambers County, Alabama, from November 18 to November 23.

The first meeting was held at Rocky Branch School, Prof. Trawick, principal. The address dwelt for the most part along agricultural lines. On November 19, a meeting was held at the Sardis School. With a short notice 50 farmers assembled and listened to a very practical address on how to improve the home, school, farm and church.

On November 20th, 100 farmers and their wives met at the new Rosenwald schoolhouse, Prof. H. A. Tolbert principal. Mr. William Barrow, one of the old farmers in this community, gave two acres of land on which this school building stands, and $40 in cash toward the required money to be raised. Rev. L. Z. Meadows gave $1.00 at this meting. He is a minister who teaches by example.

At the Andrews school we also met a progressive set of farmers who showed by the excellent lunch served that they were living at home. The children rendered a very excellent program. Prof. J. W. Trammel is the principal and is doing much to lift up his community. The clubs and community organizations at this place will give life here a sweeter and deeper meaning.

On November 22nd, we were with Prof. Black at Liberty Hill school. Prof. Black has worked in this community for ten years, and has built up a very progressive settlement. The well kept homes, beautiful gardens, splendid live stock, and intelligent boy and girls, all show the importance of having the teacher become a part of the community where he teaches. 100 farmers and two of the leading white men attended this meeting.

The campaign closed with a very enthusiastic meeting in the courthouse in LaFayette, Alabama. 400 farmers from various sections of the county were present as well as several prominent whites. Among the prominent whites were, Mr. George Hollingsworth, Justice of the Peace, Drs. Slaughter and Stephens.

Mr. C. N. Finley, a progressive merchant of LaFayette, Alabama, was master of ceremony.

Mr. Rakestraw dwelt for the most part on the importance of staying on the farm and living at home. He advised the farmers to plant early crops and work six days in the week.

Among the colored farmers who spoke, was Mr. C. Magby who owns 731 acres of land. He said that he learned to fight the boll weevil years ago even before he reached Alabama, by raising plenty of foodstuffs.

It may be interesting to know that Chambers County led the State this year in the production of cotton. She also leads in her subscriptions to The Negro Farmer and Messenger. Fully fifty farmers subscribed during the week to this paper.

PROF. RAKESTRAW VISITS LEE COUNTY

On November 6, 1916, Prof. W. M. Rakestraw, Negro Farmers' Conference Agent, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, began his annual tour through Lee County, Alabama; he was accompanied by Miss Amelia H. Brown, Rural School Supervisor of the county, and held meetings in six of the leading communities, speaking to perhaps twelve hundred farmers. He stressed the importance of the farmers casting down their buckets where they are. He urged that as many as possible attend the Annual Farmers' Conference which will be held at the Tuskegee Institute on January 17, 1917. He called attention to the fact that those who attend are making good on their farms and are models for their communities; that those who showed greater prosperity and happiness are those who are living at home and raising their foodstuffs. Not only did the patrons and trustees attend the meetings, but the ministers were very active in their efforts to make these meetings helpful. It was also encouraging to note the attendance of many whites who showed an anxiety to assist in the great work of lifting up the black man.

In speaking to the farmers, Prof. Rakestraw did not forget to stress the importance of taking care of the beautiful and well-kept school buildings that have been erected through the aid of Mr. Rosenwald and the State funds; and insisted also that school terms be lengthened.

The week's tour ended at Mount Moriah School on Friday night November 10. The building and surroundings were clean, Mothers' and Community Clubs organized and industrial work started in connection with each school. This visit will have a far-reaching effect on the educational life of our people throughout the county.

—REPORTER.

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WHAT SHALL WE DO FOR FERTILIZERS NEXT YEAR?

By G. W. CARVER

Director of Experiment Station, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

I doubt if there is a single farmer in Alabama, and but few throughout the South, who is not familiar with, and indeed the majority, puzzled over the above question. And why not, since potash is so high that it is out of the question, nitrate of soda but little better, and cotton seed selling at $62.50 per ton and very scarce at that, and the meal can well go in the above impossible list?

The results of twelve years' work on the Experiment Station plats, and in the laboratory prove that we are allowing to go to waste an almost unlimited supply of the very kind of fertilizer the majority of our soils are most deficient in. I mean muck from the swamps and leaves from the forest.

Three acres of our Experiment Station has had no commercial fertilizer put upon it for twelve years, but the following compost:

Two-thirds leaves from the woods and muck from the swamp (muck is simply the rich earth from the swamp).

One-third barnyard manure.

How to Make the Compost

Two loads of leaves and muck are taken, and spread out in a pen. One load of barnyard manure is spread over this. The pen is filled in this way. It is either rounded over like a potato-hill, or a rough shed is put over it to turn the excess of water, so as to prevent the fertilizing constituents from washing out. It is allowed to stand this way until spring.

When to Make the Compost

Begin your compost heap now; do not delay; let every spare moment be put in in the woods raking up leaves or in the swamps piling up muck. Haul, and put in these pens. Do not wait to get the barnyard manure—you can mix it in afterward, or if you cannot get the barnyard manure at all, the leaves and muck will pay you many times in the increased yield of crops.

How to Use

Prepare the land deep and thorough. Throw out rows with a middle-burster or two-horse plow; put in the compost at the rate of 20 tons per acre, 25 where the land is very poor; plant right on top of this. Handle afterwards the same as if any other fertilizer had been used.

Save all the wood ashes, waste lime, etc., etc., and mix into this compost.

Results

As stated above, three acres of our experimental farm has had no commercial fertilizer put upon it for 12 years. The land has been continually cropped, but has increased in fertility every year, both physically and chemically, on no other fertilizer than muck compost and the proper rotation of crops.

This year 282 pounds of lint cotton, 45 bushels of corn, and 215 bushels of sweet potatoes were made per acre with no other fertilizer than the above compost.

Try this; it will take only one or two trials to convince you that many thousands of dollars are being spent every year here in the South for fertilizers that profit the user very little, while Nature's choicest fertilizer is going to waste.

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

BY REV. G. L. IMES,

Dean, Bible Training School, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

The three lessons before us for study are taken from the record of John in the Book of Revelation. They harmonize with the preceding lessons of the quarter as a climax to the gospel and work of Paul. They complete the record of the great work of establishing the church of Jesus Christ in the world. This record is John's, and appropriately so for he was the last of the great company of apostles to bear witness to Jesus Christ. It is a record after his characteristic fashion of what he heard and saw. Two of the lessons record what he heard; the third describes what he saw. Note them in order.

DECEMBER 3

Jesus Christ, the First and the Last

Rev. 1:1-8, 17-20

What is recorded in this book came to John on the island of Patmos, an island in the Aegean Sea to which he had been banished from Ephesus. Cut off from his friends, separated from the field of his labors among the churches, it is a wonderful vision that he has under such circumstances. God gives him the comfort and inspiration of the personal presence of his risen Lord and makes known to him his pleasure and purpose in the churches and the world.

In the opening verses John gives us the source of his record, ascribing it directly to God and to Jesus Christ. Then he proceeds to an account of the circumstances under which he received his message, and attempts to convey to his readers his impress of the ineffable glory of their risen Lord. But words are too poor: they bring to us almost nothing of the grandeur and majesty of that awful presence, so overpowering that John, when he saw it, "fell at his feet as dead."

But not so when it comes to his character. In the course of this opening chapter John gives a list of phrases which characterize Jesus, some of them his own, some of them the words of Jesus Christ hims These may be used for study, as the substance of the lesson itself. They follow: "Jesus Christ—the faithful witness, the first begotten of the dead, the prince of the kings of the earth, the one that loved us, that washed us from our sins, in his own blood; the Lord, which is, which was, which is to come, the Almighty; he that loveth and was dead, he that is alive forevermore; he that has the keys of hell and of death; the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last." After studying the significance of these descriptive phrases answer these questions: What do I think of Him? What place does He hold in my life?

DECEMBER 10

Faithful Unto Death

Rev. 2:1-17

Here John begins the messages of Jesus Christ to the seven churches. Our lesson includes three, Ephesus, Smyrna, and Pergamos.

To the church at Ephesus Jesus Christ describes himself as the guardian and companion of the churches (v. 1). He commends the church for its fidelity against false teachers, for the purity of its life. But it has fallen away; it has left its first love. Just what this fault is, is not clear: it is a gracious consideration that keeps it hid from outsiders. Still his condemnation is sure: "Repent," He says, "or I will remove you from your place." He is merciful, but his mercy does not indulge sin. "Overcome," He says, "and you shall live forever in the paradise of God."

To the church at Ephesus he alludes to his own triumph over death: "I am he which was dead but am alive." How much this church needed this comfort is seen in his record of its works. In this church the trouble came from without; it suffered persecution and tribulation. He reminds it that he too had suffered—even death—but, you see, I'm still living. Suffer on, even unto death, I'll see that you have the crown of life. No rebuke here, no reproach; suffering itself is a great chastener. He that endures this death, the second death will not touch him.

To the church in Pergamos he refers to himself as he with the sharp two edged sword (see Heb. 4:12), that discerneth the thoughts and intents of the heart. Pergamos has been faithful, faithful in the very midst of the enemy. But that very closeness to the enemy has resulted in contamination. There are some in the midst of the church, who hold to the name of Jesus Christ, but have secretly cherished the sins and failings of the enemy. But that must not continue; they must drop all these things: if not, then he will come with exposure, with public denunciation. If they overcome, then shall they eat hidden manna instead of meat over to idols; a white stone shall they bear with their name on it, and not the scarlet garment of harlotry that conceals the name and identity.

So through to the end he commends, he rebukes, he encourages: watchful of excellence, patient with weakness, but insisting always that sin be overcome.

DECEMBER 17

The Holy City

Rev. 21:1-4, 22-27

This twenty-first chapter of the book of Revelation is John's idea and vision of heaven, of the new Jerusalem. His career on earth was near its close and there is granted to him a vision of what is to be at the end, a vision of the final realization of all that he had lived and served and suffered for; a vision of the consummation of all for which the entire creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

The ideas of heaven set forth in this passage will repay long and careful meditation. It would be well if the prevailing vague and lazy notions could be replaced by these clear and wholesome conceptions that are strengthening and stimulating.

It is worthy of note that John's idea is that heaven comes to us, rather than that we go to heaven—"the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven." God is to come where men are and dwell among them. He contemplates the removal of all that now mars the society and condition of men. It shall be a renovated, a regenerated city, into which nothing that defiles shall enter; a city in which the presence of God serves as a perpetual quarantine against evil.

Now there are some people who ridicule the idea of heaven; who think it silly and foolish and vain to talk about heaven. It will pay such people to study this passage well, to see if there is anything silly or foolish or vain in it. Sometimes they recommend that we forget heaven: one wonders then why Jesus Christ urged John to write these things. On second thought we will find that the trouble lies not in thinking about heaven but in thinking the wrong things about heaven. This passage gives us the thoughts of heaven that are sound and sober, the thoughts that elevate and inspire, that strengthen and comfort. The man who gets for himself and keeps John's vision of heaven will always be a better and strong man for it.

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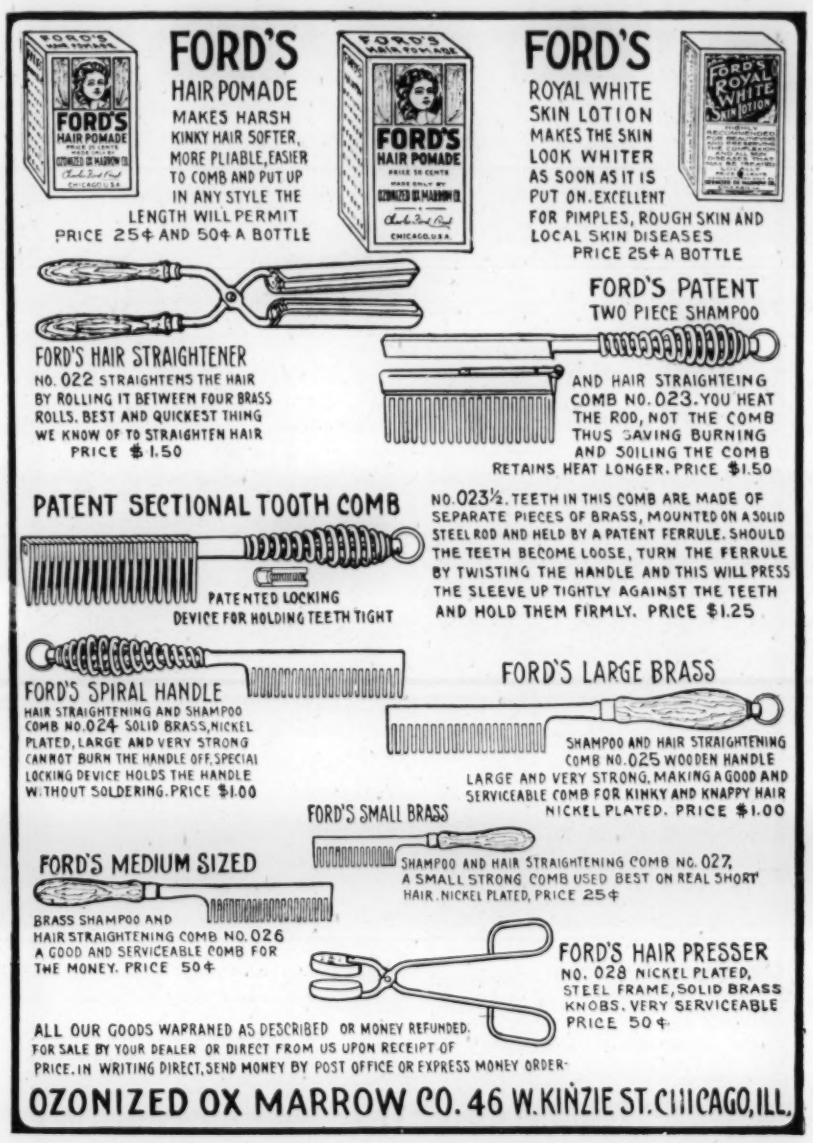
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BOY GIVES LIGHT ON VEXING PROBLEM

A Colorado farm boy has undertaken to tell parents who wish to keep their boys and girls on the farm how to go about the matter. Among his instructions are the following:

Give the young people good books, magazines, and farm papers to read.

Have some kind of club for them to attend.

Let them have a party, entertainment or picnic once in a while.

Encourage acquaintance with farm work by giving them small tracts of land for themselves, and by showing them how to raise the crops in which they are especially interested.

Encourage riding and driving. Give them the use of horses when they are not otherwise occupied.

When they have finished the courses of their rural schools, send them to the State's agricultural schools.

Take time to teach them the hows and whys of farm work.

THE NEGRO FARMER AND MESSENGER

VERNON W. BARNETT
Editor and Business Manager

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1916

WHAT OF THE HARVEST?

At this season of the year, we are either filled with joy or sadness, depending largely upon the harvest. And there is one thing certain; there is always a harvest. It may not always be in keeping with our desires, but of this fact rest assured that the harvest is directly proportional to our energy and activity, for we are the builders of our own fortunes.

Men of business and ambition no longer trust their fortunes to luck, because nature has decreed that every man who succeeds must pay the price. Earnest endeavor is the keynote to independence and happiness. The door of opportunity is ever closed against him who is too lazy to work.

Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving time is here. Are you in better condition than you were a year ago? If not, then your condition is worse; for men never stand still. They either go forward or backward. Your harvest is just what you have made it. If you have failed in your home, your farm, your church, your school and your community, it is because you have, in a large measure, ignored this important truth: "The harvest you know will be just what you sow." Because you have failed to throw your higher self into each duty. I am inclined to believe that no man can get the greatest pleasure out of life or throw his whole soul into a thanksgiving service, when a condemned conscience, as it were, stares him in the face. That is, when he carefully reviews his activities for the past twelve months and must face the fact that he has not only failed to make progress himself, but has failed to contribute to the well being of society.

What of the Future?

Yesterday is no more; but today is mine. The joy of tomorrow is determined by what I do today. Just start in time and begin today straightening out that half-kept farm. Finish the tool shed that you started last summer and gather all of the tools that are scattered about the place and save the next spring's tool bill. Inasmuch as you have already planted your oats, I suggest that you follow Professor Carver's rich suggestions in another column of this paper and set every hand about the place raking leaves and hauling muck so that you may have sufficient compost to fertilize all of these worn out spots on your farm.

Doing Things Beats Talking Abouth Them

There is a great deal said nowadays about the extreme prejudice against the black man. Let me suggest to you that talk and whining alone can never wipe out prejudice nor cure any other ill. You may cry all you please, but it takes bread to feed the hungry and dollars to clothe the naked. Much of the time that is lost during the winter around "log heap" fires talking our neighbor down could be spent more profitably getting that rundown farm in tillable condition. Many of us stacked arms this year and gave up because the weevil was here. Read the facts below and then decide whether or not work beats talk.

Mr. B. F. Whitlow, La Fayette, Alabama, made this year twenty bales of cotton with three plows, 400 bushels of corn, 120 gallons syrup, 50 bushels potatoes, 40 bushels of peas, 5,000 bundles of fodder and will kill 600 pounds of meat.

Mr. W. M. Barrow owns 310 acres of land in Chambers, made this year 23 bales of cotton with five plows, 375 bushels of corn, 70 bushels of potatoes, 30 bushels of peas, 75 gallons of syrup, will kill plenty of meat for his family this year.

Mrs. Vina Barrow of Chambers County, Alabama, has sold this year $90 worth of butter and $4 worth of beans. Mr. Barrow gave two acres of land on which to build a Rosenwald school and gave $40 toward the erection of the building.

Mr. Ed Hill, Camp Hill, Alabama, made 18 bales of cotton this year with four plows, 300 bushels of corn, 500 bales of hay, 49 bushels of wheat, will kill 500 pounds of meat. Mrs. Hill has sold $24 worth of chickens and eggs this year, and $8 worth of fancy work.

Mr. J. R. Smith, Dadeville, Alabama, in addition to seven bales of cotton, raised 210 bushels of corn, 8 gallons syrup, 60 bushels potatoes, 90 bushels peas, 35 bushels peanuts, will kill 500 pounds of meat. Mrs. Smith has sold $6 worth of eggs.

Mr. W. H. Price, Dadeville, Tallapoosa County, Alabama, in addition to eight bales of cotton, raised 250 bushels of corn, 75 gallons syrup, 115 bales of hay. For services of his fine stallion, has booked $480, two-thirds of which has already been collected of white and black of his community.

Mr. Roland Benford of LaFayette, Alabama, owns 140 acres of land and gathered 17 bales of cotton with two plows, 260 bushels corn, 60 bushels potatoes, 20 bushels peas, 25 bushels wheat, 12 bushels ground peas. Has nine head of cattle and will kill 600 pounds of meat.

The men mentioned above realized as every man should, that rendering excuses for failure will not pay debts nor build character. Any weakling can do as much. The world honors the man who makes his difficulties, stepping stones to success.

POULTRY PLANT FOR HIGH SCHOOL

The high school at Grove City, Meeker. County, Minnesota, is to have as a feature of its work in agriculture, a model poultry farm. This is to be used not only as a laboratory for the study of poultry raising but is to be made a paying enterprise.

This at least is the idea in the mind of Max True, instructor in agriculture, who was at St. Paul a few days ago buying stock for his poultry farm. Mr. True says that he has between three and four acres fenced and four houses in readiness, three of these being colony houses, and one a house 12 by 48 feet. Studies of all the leading breeds will be made.

Grove City is a rich dairy section and Mr. True believes that poultry raising fits in admirably with dairying. That is his reason for putting special stress on poultry in his courses.

THE TUSKEGEE NEGRO FARMERS' CONFERENCE TO IMPROVE HEALTH CONDITIONS

New Health and Economic Conditions to be Discussed at the Tuskegee Negro Conference to be Held January 17 and 18, 1917 — South Losing Millions of Dollars Yearly by Negro Mortalities.

No feature of the Tuskegee Institute has done a more far-reaching service for our people in the Southland than the Annual Negro Farmers' Conference which has been held here for the past twenty-six years. It has had for its leading purpose the general improvement of the economic and moral condition of our people. Through its influence, thousands of dollars have been accumulated, hundreds of comfortable homes, schools and churches have been built and farm life has taken on a new meaning.

The usual Agricultural parade representing the various activities of the school, will take place and will demonstrate just how our people are meeting the economic condition.

The peculiar condition brought on by the recent flood, boll weevils and labor exodus make it vitally necessary for our people to attend even in larger numbers than formerly.

Health conditions among our people will receive special attention during the session.

Don't fail to attend.

TICK TICKS NUMBER FOUR

Cattle ticky? Dip them.

Is blood in your cows and steers going into milk and meat or into ticks?

The loss in weight in Southern cattle is evident from the fact that few ticky cattle are fat, practically all being in poor condition when sold at the stockyards.

A ticky steer brings from $5 to $10 less than a tickfree steer of the same weight because of the quarantine restrictions and the difference in quality.

Seed ticks hatch out in the ground, then climb up the nearest grass blade or fence post and bunch near the top until they get a chance to get on a cow or steer. They begin drawing blood at once and, although they are so small at this stage they can scarcely be seen, they nevertheless can give the animal tick fever. In from 21 to 66 days this small seed tick sucks enough blood to become half inch in length.

TICK TICKS NUMBER FIVE

The only good tick is the dead one.

Among losses which should be charged to the Southern cattle tick are those due to the death of animals from disease; the unthrifty condition, stunted growth, and arrested development occasioned by the parasitic life of the ticks from without and by the blood-destroying and enervating effects of the fever parasites from within; the decrease in the milk flow, and the low market value of the animals.

The benefits following tick eradication are numerous and far-reaching. Restrictions on the shipment of cattle are removed; the loss from tick fever is eliminated; the cattle industry is promoted, and other agricultural conditions in that locality thrive; in appearance the cattle show a marked contrast with those which harbored the ticks; pure-bred cattle can be brought in from other sections to improve the native breed without danger of death from splenetic fever; and Southern animals can enter the show rings of the North without restriction. The total cost of tick extermination will be far less than the amount saved in the first year after it is accomplished.

FALL GARDEN CLEANING

Garden cleaning in the fall is as important in its way as house cleaning in the spring, whether flowers or vegetables make up the garden plot. The achievement of garden cleanliness at this season will often do much towards insuring healthiness and thriftiness of plants during the next growing season. The foliage and branches of plants which have been attacked by disease or badly infested by insect pests should be cleaned up especially well and burned.

If it is possible or desirable to clean away plants from some portions of the garden before frost, such areas may well be sown to rye as a cover crop, the growth to be turned under in early spring. Incidentally, also, the patches of green will give the otherwise bare garden a cleanly and more cheerful appearance.

It is after frost that cleaning is most needed in the garden. When annual plants have been nipped, those that may harbor disease or insect pests should be cut down or dug up and burned. If the soft leaved plants which will rot easily are free from disease and insects they may be turned under advantageously at this time. It is not well, however, to turn under tree leaves, especially such tough leaves as those from oaks. These make valuable compost when rotted, but usually require two years for decomposition. They should be collected and placed in a compost pile or pit maintained in a convenient location. Soil, wood ashes, lime, and fresh manure should be mixed in the compost heap.

The fall is the time also, to cut down asparagus bushes. This should be done after the foliage dies. The old canes of black raspberries also should be cut out at this time. If there is any reason to believe that the trimmings harbor disease spores or insects, they should be burned. Rhubarb leaves should be removed in late fall and the crowns mulched with straw or manure.

Selecting Breeding Hogs

By A. L. Mebane

Superintendent Farm and Instructor in Agronomy, Agricultural and Technical College, Greensboro, North Carolina

In this day when pork is bringing such a high price on the market, every farmer should grow his meat for home consumption and at the same time produce some for sale. In most cases the home market will encourage farmers to sell in the local towns. When good prices cannot be obtained in the home markets, pork in quantities may be shipped to the commission merchants in the larger cities and there, in most cases, get a better price.

Farmers in the South have many advantages in growing hogs that are not had by the Northern and Western farmers. The grazing season is longer; cheaper hog houses may be built and a greater variety of food can be produced during the year. This we all realize will cheapen the cost of growing pork.

In order to grow thrifty hogs and pigs several things of importance are necessary. First, the selection of a breed. Pedigreed hogs are as a rule considered the best. The pure bred hogs to be most profitable must have the best care possible. They must be provided with good food and shelter. This of course, will call for some experience and ability on the part of the owner.

Next to the pure bred, the grade is perhaps the best all round hog for the average farmer. The cross between some of the leading breeds will stimulate vitality and endurance. Do not misunderstand me. I do not mean to cross hogs indiscriminately, but put thought in the business. If possible, raise pure bred hogs; if this cannot be done under favorable conditions, a cross between some of the leading breeds is desirable for market purposes.

Right here I think it desirable to name some of the leading breeds of hogs, which will thrive well in the South under fair conditions: Poland China, Berkshire, Duroc Jersey and Tanworth.

The Boar

The boar by all means should be pure bred, coming from a prolific family. His head should be wide between the eyes, having short snout, fine ears conforming to the breed The jowls should be full, coming well back; neck short, deep and wide; and a good chest, showing his masculinity.

Brood Sows

In selecting the brood sow one thing must be kept in mind; that is, she should come from a strain of hogs in which productiveness is a strong feature. This, of course, is a hereditary trait, and a sow whose dam produced large litters will more than likely do the same. A good sow invariably has a long and deep body, with well sprung ribs, head fairly short and wide between the eyes. The ears may be inclined to courseness more than boar's. She should have straight legs of medium length. She must show good qualities as a suckler. In fact, sows with less than ten well developed teats are, as a rule, useless as breeders. The points above must be looked for by all farmers who are growing hogs in order to make profits.

Farrowing Time

Young sows should not be bred before they are ten months old, and they will be more than a year old when they have their young. A good time to breed is about the middle of December. The warm days of spring will begin to appear by the time the pigs are born, and this is in their favor by starting them to grow off rapidly.

About ten days before the sow farrows she should be put in a pen by herself, and be given a good bunch of litter for bedding. A few days before a sow has pigs, the feed must not be given as heavily as in the earlier stage.

Feeding After Farrowing

If every thing goes well at the time when the pigs are born, the feed may be increased as the demand for milk increases, until the mother hog is on full rations. Feed the sow all she can eat, as she must eat sufficient food to produce a good supply of milk for the young and at the same time to keep up the body consumption.

The young pigs at four weeks old should begin to eat when given the proper kind of food, therefore, it is advantageous to place a trough near by where only the little ones can get to it. Pigs well cared for may be weaned at eight weeks old. In order to keep hogs healthy a warm dry pen is absolutely essential.

Outdoor Life

The hog needs plenty of exercise, therefore one of the prime requisites is ample pasture, keeping him from the shelter as much as possible, especially during the warm months. Exercise, sunshine and grass will add much to the growth and health of the pig. A place for hogs to run is often overlooked by swine growers. Hogs that are kept in close confinement do not have strong bones and bodies like those that have good range. Of course, fattening hogs do not need as much exercise as breeding ones. Those that are for killing purposes should be kept comparatively close, so as to put on as much fat as possible in a short time.

To sum up in a few words what I have intended to say in this article: breed pure bred hogs if possible. When this is not done, breed good grades; take care of the boars and sows; watch the animals at farrowing time; give good feed and plenty of clean water; ward off diseases, especially cholera by vaccination, and never forget that the hog is a grass eating animal. Therefore, if you desire good healthy hogs and sound pork, let this animal follow as near as possible its natural bent.

FALL-PLOW THE GARDEN

BY J. S. GARDNER

Missouri College of Agriculture

Whether your garden was as successful a venture the past year as you hoped it would would be or not, steps for assuring success for the next year can be taken now.

Plowing in the fall, that is, before

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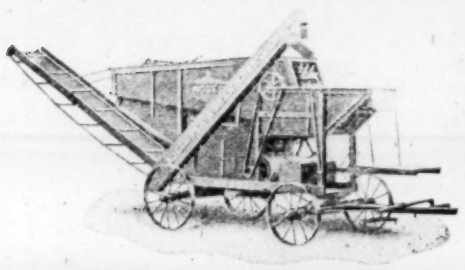

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freezing, is one of those steps. The reasons are many, so only a few can be given here.

If your garden is a somewhat heavy, clayey loam, it will be made "quicker" by fall plowing, leaving the furrow slices on edge, or as nearly so as possible.

The exposed soil will crumble up through the winter due to alternate freezing and thawing. The roughened garden surface will catch and hold more of the winter rains and snows than would a smooth beaten-down surface. The slices themselves will dry out, and when the season at which seeds can be planted does come, the furrows can be covered with the crumbled, dry soil which is in excellent condition for seed sowing and which will protect from evaporation the water caught through the winter; a sort of insurance against dry summer.

Fall plowing will also help the farmer fight insects. Those that pass the winter on the ground in crop remnants will be buried so deeply that they cannot work to the surface, and those that burrow int the ground to escape outside temperatures will be turned up to freeze and perish. In short, fall-plow the garden.

THE AMERICAN OPOSSUM

"Very few people in the United States, outside of those directly interested in the sale of fur pelts or the manufacture of furs, realize the commercial value of the pelt of the American Opossum, or the quantity of these little animals killed each year for the pelt and meat," says Mr. A. B. Shubert, President of A. B. Shubert, Inc., Chicago, U. S. A., the largest House in the world dealing exclusively in American Raw Furs. The quantity of pelts handled by the collectors of furs is over three and a half million skins a year, representing a money value from two to three million dollars paid to the trappers of Opossum.

"Opossum and sweet potatoes—if the Opossum is properly prepared and cooked—is considered by epicures to be a dish 'fit for the gods.'"

The fur being very light in color may be dyed most any color desired. Dyed in imitation of the very popular Skunk Fur, there is nothing as good, and our American Fur dyers produce an article that is hard for the unacquainted to distinguish from the genuine article. The better grades of Opossum make an elegant fur trimming and these grades can also be made up into handsome sets of furs, which can be sold at a very reasonable price. It is a medium class fur and the best for appearance and service.

At today's Market prices, trappers will be well paid for their efforts and time in trapping this valuable Furbearer.

THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS LOST THROUGH RUSTING MACHINERY

All farm implements should now be under shelter and be put in first-class condition for next season. The binder should be repaired now and not when you are ready to begin work. Delay at harvest time may mean the loss of many dollars. The same principle holds true for all other farm machines.

Too many farmers are careless with the equipment which makes farming a paying business. In every section of the State farm machinery can be seen out in the weather for weeks and months at a time. Such practices eat up the profits of the farm. What would the farmer think of the manufacturer who neglected his machinery? The manufacturer would be a mighty poor business man, yet the farmer, who is the greatest producer, allows his machines to rust and go without care.

Every farmer should have a place to store his machinery. A small building of simple construction, located between the house and barn, is best. A long shed not more than 18 feet wide, provided with continuous doors along one side, is more convenient for removing implements than a wider building. A small shop included at one end is a great convenience in keeping implements in repair. Plans for such a building can be secured by writing to the Department of Agricultural Engineering, College of Agriculture, Columbia, Missouri, enclosing five cents in stamps.

When your implements are brought in from the field inspect them very carefully and note all repairs needed on a tag and tie it on the implement. Carefully clean and oil all bearings and look over wooden parts. If the paint is becoming worn, put on a new coat to prevent the wood from shrinking or swelling. Place the machine under shelter and remove the tag when all repairs have been made in first-class condition. Proper maintenance and protection of farm machinery everywhere would mean millions of dollars in the pockets of the farmers each year.—*E. W. Lehmann*, Missouri College of Agriculture.

HOW MY FATHER SUCCEEDED IN GROWING COTTON THIS YEAR IN SPITE OF THE BOLL WEEVIL

By L. E. Cotton,

Newville, Alabama

In the first place my father realized that the dreaded pest was here in 1915, and set about destroying all places of hibernation. He burned the woods near, burned the stumps and trees in the field and did away with all rail fences.

He plowed his land throughly in the fall of 1915 which gave it a chance to freeze much deeper, and further put the weevil out of business.

He used an early variety of cotton seed, such as Tool's, Brown's, and also Prof. Carver's Improved variety. The seed secured from Tuskegee was very successful and I would recommend it to all farmers who desire to get ahead of the weevil.

My father planted cotton the last of March—30 acres in all, to two plows; used 200 pounds guano to the acre. Plowed this cotton every week, using a brush on the whiffletree. He had the squares gathered two or three times a week. But for the heavy rains in June, I am sure he would have gotten two-thirds of a crop in spite of the weevil. However, he succeeded in getting 13 bales to his two plows.

His experience this year convinces him that he had too much planted to cotton. He has decided to plant only 6 acres to the plow next year in order to cultivate more thoroughly. And too he advises that whenever a small quantity of fertilizer is used, it should be used at planting time.

In addition to the cotton crop, my father also made 700 bushels of corn, 20 bushels of wheat, 10 bushels of rye, three tons of hay, 100 gallons of syrup, 200 bushels of potatoes, plenty of peanuts and peas. He has 18 large hogs to kill with 25 to run over for another year. In this way we are not very much hurt by the weevil. After my school closes I go home and become a regular hand on my father's farm.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORK GROWING

First Annual Report of States Relations Service of U. S. Department of Agriculture Shows Progress Under Smith-Lever Act.

The Federal and State system of co-operative agricultural extension work inaugurated by the Smith-Lever Act is now operating in all the States and the results of the activities are steadily increasing in value, according to the first annual report of the director of the States Relations Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, which was created primarily to administer the act.

Headquarters and agents for carrying on the extension activities have been located in more than 1,200 counties and have received the co-operation not only of the State but of the counties, local organizations, and individuals. The report calls attention to the fact that 90,000 students are taking agricultural courses in secondary schools.

In connection with this schoolwork the use of land for instructional purposes has greatly increased and many of the schools have introduced the home-project method as a practical feature of agricultural instruction. Many schools are also taking advantage of the boys' and girls' clubs as a feature of the co-operative agricultural extension work.

In carrying on its work through institutes and movable schools the Service loaned 24,000 lantern slides during the year. The applications for slides were more numerous than the Service had facilities to grant.

EFFECT OF IMPROVED COUNTRY ROADS ON THE VALUE OF FARMS

A careful study of the increase in the value of farm lands in eight counties in which economic surveys were made, reveals the interesting fact that following the improvement of the main market roads the increase in the selling price of tillable farm lands served by the roads has amounted to from one to three times the total cost of the improvements. The increase in values in those instances which were recorded ranged from 65 per cent to 80 per cent in Spotsylvania County, Virginia.

In Dinwiddie County, Virginia, the actual price of 43 farms sold for $8.38 to $43.74 per acre before the roads were built, and from $24.70 to $73.60 per acre after the improvement.

In Lee County, Virginia, a study of eight tracts along the roads before and after the improvement indicated that these properties increased about $23 per acre.

In Wise County, Virginia, lands along the improved roads increased in value from $49.06 to $79.44 per acre.

In Dallas County, Alabama, lands that sold for $8 per acre easily brought $25 per acre after roads were improved.

In Lauderdale County, Mississippi, the total assessed valuation of real property outside of the city, was $2,757,546. After the roads were improved the valuation increased to $3,183,809 or an increase of 15 per cent. Local real estate men placed the increase in land values on account of improved roads, at from 25 to 50 per cent.

In Matinee County, Florida, careful study of sales and real estate records indicated that the improvement of roads has added from 15 to 100 per cent or at least $15 per acre, to the selling price of all lands within one-half mile of improved roads. This would give a total of $611,000 or more than twice the value of the bonds issued.

FALL MANAGEMENT IN THE POULTRY YARD

By Geo. W. Hervey,

Missouri College of Agriculture

The fall season is the natural time for culling in the poultry flock. Surplus cockerals that will not be needed for next spring's breeding work should be marketed at once before they shall have passed the broiler stage. Such birds if held will consume feed and become a source of unwarranted expense during the dormant season.

If the mistake has been made of holding over old hens or cocks, they should be sold. They are certain to prove a loss on the investment in the home flock unless the hens are exceptional producers and are to be kept for the production of eggs for hatching. Generally speaking, however, it is more economical to have the laying stock composed of birds in their first laying year.

In selecting pullets for the winter quarters a rigid culling should be resorted to. Do not keep birds that have weak stamina or are in any way deformed. Such birds will necessarily be inferior layers and if used in a breeding pen will produce offsprings lacking in natural vigor, and will not be resistant to such spring troubles as white diarrhea, leg weakness and bronchitis. Reserve pullets that are active and manifest an alert, nervous temperament. A bright eye, deep back, and a characteristic strut are essentials in a good producer.

Before placing the birds in the laying quarters due preparation should be made. A good coat of whitewash will improve the appearance of the house and will tend to offset any disease germs that may be lurking in some dark crevice. It is recommended that about three quarts of kerosene oil be placed in fifteen quarts of the wash for the purpose of combating red mites.

In the early spring there is entirely too much trouble in our poultry flocks from colds, roup, and silar respiratory diseases. These are largely the result of drafts in the houses. It will pay the poultry keeper, therefore, to nail up any cracks in the back, sides and roof of his henhouse.

Do not crowd the poultry house. From two to five square feet of floor space per bird should be allowed. The exact ratio should depend upon the breed and the extent of the yarding. As a rule it will be found advisable to allow about four square feet for the lighter breeds, such as the leghorns.

There should be about five or six inches of straw litter placed in the house. The grain may be fed in this. The birds will scratch in this and exercise will be induced continually. Clean nesting material should be placed in the nest boxes. There should be one nest box for every four birds.

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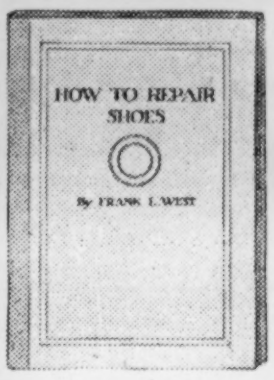

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